

Executive Summary

The National Arson Prevention Initiative (NAPI), since its creation by President Clinton on June 19, 1996, has focused its efforts on the coordination of Federal resources to support the development of community-based arson awareness and prevention activities. The following are some of the notable accomplishments of the first six months of the Initiative:

FEMA created the National Arson Prevention Clearinghouse, accessible toll-free at 1-888-603-3100. The Clearinghouse has received more than 10,000 inquiries from every State and territory, and has distributed more than 300,000 arson prevention information packets.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) of the Department of Justice has made grants of \$4,600 to 586 counties in 13 targeted Southern states to enhance church surveillance efforts and to prevent arson.

The Corporation for National Service's AmeriCorps and VISTA volunteers conducted arson risk assessment surveys and provided arson prevention information in 18 communities that had experienced church arson and in 73 other potentially vulnerable communities in the six southeastern States.

FEMA distributed \$774,000 in training grants to all fifty States and the District of Columbia to enhance State and local arson investigation and prevention capabilities.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) authorized the use of existing Community Development Block Grant and Public Housing Assistance funds to support arson and other crime prevention strategies in communities.

The Department of Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) and Justice's U.S. Attorneys and Community Relations Service participated in hundreds of community meetings on arson prevention.

The Department of Education has awarded seven grants for a total of \$1.8 million for hate crime prevention activities.

The leaders of eight national fire service organizations signed the President's Partnership for Fire and Arson Protection on June 26, 1996, committing themselves and their memberships to arson prevention activities. The organizations signing the resolution include the Alliance for Fire and Emergency Management/International Society of Fire Service Instructors, the International Association of Arson Investigators, the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the National Fire Protection Association, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, and the National Volunteer Fire Council.



**Arson is the leading
cause of property
loss due to fire - it
costs this nation
over \$2 billion every
year. It costs our
communities so
much more.**